

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:
Senate District D
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla AK 99654
Phone: 907-376-4866
Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov



Session:
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau AK 99801-1182
Phone: 907-465-3878
Toll-Free: 800-862-3878
Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov

Senator David Wilson

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSSB 105(FIN): MARITAL & FAMILY THERAPY LIC. & SERVICES

“An Act relating to the licensure of marital and family therapists; relating to professional liability insurance for marital and family therapists; relating to medical assistance for marital and family therapy services; and providing for an effective date.”

If enacted, CSSB 105(FIN) would add licensed Marital and Family Therapists to the list of independent licensed practitioners to address the shortage of Medicaid-eligible behavioral health providers in the state, afford more options for beneficiaries, and increase access to behavioral health care.

Currently, licensed marital and family therapists (LMFTs) are only allowed to provide services in community health clinics or physician mental health clinics, which limits the number of willing providers. CSSB 105(FIN) expands medical assistance reimbursement services to cover those services provided directly/independently by LMFTs.

Specifically, CSSB 105(FIN):

- Defines the supervision training hours and requirements for an Associate Marital & Family Therapist;
- Expands the list of approved healthcare professionals that can provide group supervision of an Associate Marital & Family Therapist; and,
- Adds Marital & Family Therapy services as eligible to render and bill for Medicaid-funded services as independent practitioners under Alaska Statute 47.07.030 (b).

The Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapy, the Mat-Su Health Foundation, the Primary Care Association, and emergency room physicians support SB 105. I encourage your support of Senate Bill 105.